



**For immediate release
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DCR RESTORING THE STONE DUST PATHWAY IN THE FENWAY

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) next week will begin repairing and upgrading the stone dust perimeter path along the Fenway between Forsythe Way and Avenue Louis Pasteur.

The work, scheduled to start Tuesday, May 27, will be done 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and will be finished in two stages. A section behind the Museum of Fine Arts will be completed by June 20, in time for the opening of the museum's new Evans entrance. The remainder of the path is expected to be completed by the end of July. During the work, sections of the pathway will be closed and pedestrians will be directed to seek alternative routes around the park.

"Restoring the path through this environmentally sensitive area by the Muddy River represents DCR's efforts to enhance and improve access for all our park users," said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr. "Walkers, runners, cyclists, and wheelchair users will be able to access this path, while the stone dust surface allows water to filter through into the ground below."

The project is being funded through DCR's 2008 Partnerships Matching Funds Program. Under the program, friends groups or other non-profit groups provide matching funds for capital projects in state parks. In this case, the Emerald Necklace Conservancy, with the help of the Museum of Fine Arts, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, the Colleges of the Fenway, the Fenway Alliance, and the Solomon Fund, is contributing \$35,000 toward the \$129,000 cost of the project. DCR is providing the remaining \$94,000.

"The Conservancy proposed this project in the heart of the Emerald Necklace to coincide with the opening of the Museum of Fine Arts entrance on the Fens," said Julie Crockford, president of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy. "It afforded the ideal moment to ask the MFA and other neighboring institutions and civic groups to join the Conservancy and DCR on a significant maintenance project to benefit residents, visitors, and commuters. We are delighted to see the project launch."

The repairs include installing a new gravel sub-base, stone dust, and granite edging. Newport Construction of Nashua, N.H., has been awarded the contract.

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The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, and dams, in addition to 278 bridges and miles of roadways. Led by Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr., the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit www.mass.gov/dcr. Contact us at mass.parks@state.ma.us.